

## **Remarks**

In the office action mailed March 19, 2008, the examiner required applicants to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicants respectfully traverse the election of species requirement on the grounds that the generic claim includes sufficiently few species that a search and examination of all of the species at one time would not impose a serious burden on the examiner. However, in order to be responsive to the requirement, applicants hereby elect the following species:

fatty acid derived nitrile - tallow nitrile

aliphatic amide impurity – tallow amide

strong acid – sulfuric acid

conditions – room temperature and atmospheric pressure.

The following claims read on the elected species: 1-4, 6-9 and 15, 16, 18, and 20. Upon allowance of the elected specie claims, applicants respectfully request that all of the pending claims be rejoined in the present case.

Therefore, in the claimed invention is believed to represent a patentable departure from the cited art. Entry of the subject remarks prior to the examination of the present application on the merits is respectfully requested. The claimed

invention is believed to represent a patentable departure from the cited art. A Notice of Allowance with respect to all of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ralph J. Mancini", enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Ralph J. Mancini  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 34,054

Akzo Nobel Inc.  
Intellectual Property Department  
120 White Plains Road, Suite 300  
Tarrytown, NY 10591  
Tel No.: (914) 333-7454